

Appl. No. : 09/651,051
Filed : August 24, 2000

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2004 Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Indicated allowable subject matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 17-23 would be in condition for allowance if they were rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 17 and 18 such that they are now in independent form. Claims 19-23 depend upon Claim 18 and, for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claim 14, as amended, depends upon Claim 17. Claims 15-16, as amended, depend upon Claim 18. Therefore, for at least this reason, Claims 14-16 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 13-16 and 24

Claims 13-16 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Igarashi et al. (USPN 5,598,817) in view of Osakabe (USPN 5,809,974). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, to advance prosecution, Applicant has amended these claims.

Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice.

As outlined above, Claims 14-16 now depend upon either allowable Claim 17 or allowable Claim 18.

Claim 24 has been amended to recite, in part, a "direct fuel injected system for an internal combustion engine comprising" a "pressure sensor being mounted on an electronic control box for housing an electronic control unit and means for protecting the fuel pressure sensor from damage caused by engine vibrations." The cited art does not disclose, teach or suggest a direct fuel injected system with the above-noted limitation. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 24 is in condition for allowance.

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Claim 28

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Igarashi and Osakabe, and further in view of Rhine (USPN 3,810,581).

To advance prosecution, Applicant has amended this claim to more distinctly and specifically recite the claimed fuel system. Specifically, Claim 28 now recites, in part, a fuel system that includes an elastic conduit "having at least one elastic wall exposed to said high pressure fuel without intervening structures." In contrast, Rhine disclosed an accumulator that included "a piece of rigid metal tubing [with] holes in its walls." Col. 3, lines 35-40. Such a rigid structure would tend to reflect pressure fluctuations and thereby would not as effectively reduce pressure fluctuations as compared to the claimed structure. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 29-39. Independent Claim 29, recites in part a direct fuel injected system that comprises "a pressure dampening device in communication with the fuel injector, wherein said pressure dampening device comprises an elastic conduit having at least one elastic wall exposed to said high pressure fuel without intervening structures." As noted above, Rhine disclosed an accumulator that included "a piece of rigid metal tubing [with] holes in its walls." Col. 3, lines 35-40. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 29 and dependent Claims 30-39 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

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Respectfully submitted,

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